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Inside Wallops

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International Space Station Partners Adjust Target Dates For First Launches

Representatives of all nations involved in the International Space Station (ISS) have agreed to officially target a November 1998 launch for the first station component and to revise launch target dates for the remainder of the 43-flight station assembly plan.

In meetings of the Space Station Control Board and the Heads-of-Agency on May 30 and 31 at Kennedy Space Center station partners agreed to target launch dates of Nov. 20, 1998, for the Control Module named Zarya (Russian word for sunrise) and Dec. 3, 1998, for Shuttle mission STS-88 with Unity.

Changes in the construction schedule for the third station component, the Russian-provided Service Module, led the partners to reschedule the first assembly launches. The Service Module will house the first station occupants and the European Space Agency-provided Data Management System.

Although the new dates move the launch of the first station component, Zarya, from June to November, the target dates agreed upon for many major station milestones during the latter portions of the five-year assembly plan are little changed. In addition, several enhancements to the station's assembly have been made, including an exterior "warehouse" for spare parts and a Brazilian-provided carrier for exterior station components that are launched aboard the Space Shuttle.

The International Space Station partners set an April 1999 target launch date for the Russian Service Module. The first station crew — Commander Bill Shepherd, Soyuz Commander Yuri Gidzenko and Flight Engineer Sergei Krikalev — will be launched aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft in summer 1999 to begin a five-month inaugural stay.

Launch of the U.S. laboratory module is set for October 1999. Launches of other laboratory modules provided by Europe, Japan and Russia, will take place later in the assembly sequence. The Canadian-provided station robotic arm will be launched in December 1999. Scientific research will commence aboard the station early in the year 2000.

The expansion from a three-person crew to a six-person capability is planned in November 2002. The final launch in the assembly sequence is set for January 2004.

NASA continues the development of an Interim Control Module (ICM) as a contingency against further delays in the Service Module and as a potential additional propellant capability for a more robust space station. A decision concerning the configuration of the ICM will be made later this year.

Full details of the current International Space Station Assembly Sequence, Revision D, are available on the ISS web site: *http://station.nasa.gov*

"Now departing at Gate 1....." *A C-130 aircraft, which was recently sold at public auction is transported off the Wallops Main Base. The aircraft had been used for spare parts to support NASA 427.*

Digital Photo by Rick Huey

Trace Images

The first images from NASA's Transition Region and Coronal Explorer (TRACE) spacecraft reveal activity in the solar atmosphere in stunning detail and include the first detailed observations of a magnetic energy release.

TRACE is training its powerful telescope on the so-called "transition region" of the Sun's atmosphere, a dynamic region between the relatively cool surface and lower atmosphere regions of the Sun and the extremely hot upper atmosphere.

The TRACE science team will study the evolution of events, such as massive flarings and huge eruptions, in the Sun's atmosphere. These events originate at the Sun's visible surface and travel upward through its atmosphere and then into its super-hot corona before speeding out into space, sometimes towards Earth

Wallops Shorts.....

Allison Wozniak participated in the Career Awareness Day, June 1, at Prince Street Elementary School, Salisbury, MD.

NASA Forms ISS Operations Office In Russia

NASA has formed the Office of Human Space Flight Programs, Russia, to oversee the transition from the Phase One Shuttle-Mir program to the assembly and operation of the new International Space Station (ISS). Astronaut Michael A. Baker (Captain, USN) will lead this office. Baker recently was named Assistant Director to Johnson Space Center Director, George W. S. Abbey.

Baker will be NASA's lead representative to the Russian Space Agency and its contractors on operational issues as part of NASA's Human Exploration and Development of Space (HEDS) initiative. This places Russian liaison for all human space flight operations and initiatives under one office and consolidates preparations for the assembly of the ISS, including mission operations, crew training, logistics and technical liaison activities with Russian space organizations.

Baker has flown four shuttle missions, including his most recent flight as commander of STS-81 aboard Atlantis in January 1997, the fifth docking of a shuttle to the Mir Space Station. Prior to that flight, Baker served as the NASA Director of Operations at Star City from March to October 1995.

Wallops Refocusing Initiative

In the near future, a Competitive Placement Plan (CPP) ad will be posted Center-wide to solicit applications for the Wallops Refocusing Initiative (WRI). WRI is a new, competitive training opportunity that will allow civil service employees to pursue an engineering or other AST qualifying degree, leading to potential placement in an AST position at the Wallops Flight Facility.

The Wallops Mission 2000 study identified potential engineering shortages and possible skill imbalances among the workforce needed to conduct future Wallops missions. In response, Goddard (GSFC) has initiated the WRI. GSFC has partnered with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) to offer courses on-site at WFF leading to an undergraduate degree in Software Engineering, Mechanical Engineering or Electrical Engineering. (For a program description, contact Kimela Ouakil, x66-5087.) The WRI also allows WFF civil service employees to apply to another university if the UMES options do not meet their career development needs, provided they obtain management endorsement of their proposed program of study.

Courses offered at Wallops for the WRI will also be open to contractors at WFF and other federal employees on a space-available basis. Contractors and other federal employees should complete the Contractor/Guest Application form and coordinate their application to the program with their supervisors and organizations. Questions should be directed to Don Wolford, x66-9236 or Kimela Ouakil, x66-5087.

Wallops Travel Office

On June 1, office hours for the WFF Travel Office were changed to 8 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. Thornton Travel will be providing Government and leisure travel services to Wallops under a sub-contracting arrangement with AMEX. Cleo Thornton, x1404, will be the on-site travel agent serving the Wallops Flight Facility between 8 a.m. and noon daily. Pending approval from the Airline Reporting Corporation (ARC), there will be an interim period where Thornton Travel will only be able to issue electronic tickets (E-Tickets) from the Wallops location.

Travel arrangements that need to be made between noon and 4:30 p.m. will be through the GSFC AMEX office in Greenbelt. Wallops travelers should call the WFF Travel Office, x1404. The telephones will automatically roll over to the GSFC AMEX office in Greenbelt. After hours service will not change, call 1-800-847-0242.

For further information call Tim Abbott, x1647 or Fritz Ankerman, x66-4384.

Wallops Annual Picnic

June 27
Noon to 5 p.m.
Ball Field Picnic Area

Food, Music and Fun

Burgers, hot dogs, corn-on-the-cob, sodas and beer will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share.

DJ - Noon to 4 p.m.

Waterslide, volleyball, softball, hayride and horse-shoes

For information contact Gerry McIntire, x1889 or Bev Hall, x17

Savings Bond Campaign

The U.S. Savings Bond Campaign ends June 12. This year's theme, "INVEST TODAY - ENJOY TOMORROW" focuses on the importance of planning ahead. The purchase of savings bonds is an investment in tomorrow which helps to promote thrift, increase personal savings and reduce the cost of Government financing.

Savings bonds, through the Payroll Savings Plan, are a great benefit that NASA is committed to support. They offer competitive rates, affordability and the convenience of systematic savings. When one of your fellow employees calls on you, take the time to consider what U.S. Savings Bonds can do for you. Years from now you will find that your decision today to join the Payroll Savings Plan was a wise choice.

Upcoming Course

Organizing Your Work Space

Date: June 29-30, 1998
Location: Bldg. E2, Conference Room
Time: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Description: This course helps participants organize their work areas and work habits. The seminar includes a workbook, practical instruction and hands-on coaching at each participant's work station.

Fund Source: Center

Submission Deadline: Send Training Requests to Tamara Bolden, Code 117 by June 19, 1998. All Code 800 Training Requests should be forwarded to Sherry Kleckner.

International Luncheon Celebrating International Day
June 22
11:30 a.m. Bldg. F-3

Admission: One covered dish of any nationality.

All dishes will be labeled by name and national origin. Respond by June 15 to Linda Thompson x1072, Roland Wescott x1624, Art Vigil x1278, or Barbara Justis x1732.

Home Safety Week
June 7 - 13, 1998

According to the National Safety Council, in 1996, there were 26,500 deaths in the home due to unintentional injuries. The following are a few home safety tips, for further information contact the Wallops Fire Department, x1300.

Smoke Detectors

Protect your family by installing smoke detectors on every level of your home. Test the batteries every month, and replace them twice a year.

Emergency Evacuation Plan

Make plans now on how to evacuate your home and make sure all family members know at least two ways to exit every room. Practice how to escape in case of a fire. Designate a well-lit place to meet outside of the house so you can quickly determine if anyone has been left behind.

Fire Extinguishers

A multipurpose, dry-chemical Class ABC fire extinguisher will put out most flames. Learn how to work it before you need it.

Carbon Monoxide Detector

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that results from improperly ventilated heaters, furnaces, stoves and other sources. It causes headaches, nausea and death. Install a detector near the sleeping area in your home. Once a year, replace the batteries.

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